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Message Text

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS:PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: HIRC CONSIDERATION OF FRASER AMENDMENT

1. ON FEBRUARY 3 HIRC ACCEPTED COMPROMISE AMENDMENT CALLING FOR REPORT ON KOREA. COMPROMISE, WHICH WAS SUBSTITUTED IN LIEU OF ORIGINAL FRASER AMENDMENT, CALLS FOR REPORT BY PRESIDENT WITHIN 90 DAYS OF ENACTMENT AND THEN ANNUALLY FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS (TEXT OF AMENDMENT CONTAINED SEPTEL.)

2. REPORT IS TO COVER FOLLOWING: (A) REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE UNDER THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S ANNOUNCED PROGRAM TO MODERNIZE ITS ARMED FORCES SO AS TO ACHIEVE MILITARY SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 1980, (B) REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE U.S. IN MUTUAL SECURITY EFFOETS IN KOREA, AND (C) REPORT ON PPOSPECTS FOR OR IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASED REDUCTION OF U.S. ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO DUTY IN THE ROK, IN COORDIN-ATION WITH KOREA'S TIMETABLE FOR MILITARY SELF-SUFFIC,ENCY.
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,. IN ADDITION COMMITTEE AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE REPORT WOULD CONTAI', INTER ALIA, REFERENCE TO INCLUSION IN STUDY OF EXAMINATION OF PROSPECTS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE ON KOREAN PENINSULA. PROPOSED FINDLEY TEXT FOR INCLUSION OF COMMITTEE REPORT CONTAINED SEPTEL.)

4. IN VIEW PREPONDERANT COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR FINDLEY COMPROMISE APPROACH, CONGRESSMAN FRASER DID NOT PURSUE HIS OWN ORIGINAL DRAFT AT FE0RUARY 3 SESSION 0UT FOCUSED ON ATTEMPT TO FORCE SUBMISSION OF EXECUTIVE PRANCH REPORT ON KOREA 0Y MAY 1 SO THAT IT COULD BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE IN CONTEXT OF FY 77 BUDGET REQUEST. HOWEVER, FRASER PROPOSAL ON MAY 1 DEADLINE DATE WAS DEFEATED IN UP AND DOWN VOTE.

5. COMMENT: OVERALL, THE DEBATE ON FRASER AMENDMENT DEMONSTRATED THE SIGNIFICAHT RELUCTANCE ON PART OF HIRC MAJORITY TO HAVE CONGRESS GO ON RECORD AS SETTING COMPLETE U.S. FORCE WITHDRAWAL AS O0JECTIVE. DURING EARLIER DE0ATE SEVERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS UERE EXPLICIT IN POINTING OUT DANGER OF CONGRESS, EVEN IN ATTENUATED FORM, SETTING COMPLETE U.S. FORCE WITHDRAWAL AS AN OBJECTIVE.

6. AT SAME TIME, DEBATE SHOWED THAT THERE IS CONTINUING COMMITTEE INTEREST IN QUESTION OF FORCE REDUCTION AND OF APPROPRIATE FORCE LEVELS FOR KOREA. SEVERAL OF CONGRESSMEN, MOST PARTICULARLY CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON, ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THEIR OPPOSITION TO FRASER AMENDMENT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS SUPPORT FOR ROKG DO;ESTIC POLICY WHICH THEY STRESSED REMAINS A MAJOR CONCERN TO CONGRESS AND THE CAUSE FOR CON;INUING EROSION OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROK.

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